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LIMEHURST
Rural District Council.

Medical Officer's Report, 1920.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE:
GREEN, SON & MILLS, PRINTERS, MINERVA WORKS.

Annual Report.

Strathdene,
Taunton Road,
Nr. Ashton-under-Lyne.

June, 1921.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS

OF THE

Limehurst Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit to you my Fourteenth Annual Report, as to the health and sanitary condition of this district, for the year ended December 31st, 1920, and have followed out the instructions laid down in Memo. 40/Int. of the Ministry of Health accordingly.

A.—Natural and Social Conditions of the District.

AREA AND POPULATION.

Parish	Area. Acres.	Population 1911 Census.	Estimated by Registrar General Dec. 31st, 1919.
Alt.....	1,113·603	1,032	
Bardsley	883·076	2,215	
Hartshead ...	1,018·602	700	
Littlemoss ...	703·802	556	
Waterloo	341·139	3,966	
Woodhouses...	627·545	830	
	4,687·767	9,299	for Births 9,576 for Deaths 9,264

The district extends between the County Borough of Oldham on the north, the Borough of Ashton-under-Lyne on the south, and reaches S.W. to N.E. from near the City of Manchester to the West Riding of the County of Yorkshire. It consists of six Parishes (two urban in character, two partially so and two rural). The latter being mainly on the elevated part of the district. Heights above O.D. vary from 215·0 to 1000·0 feet, and with the exception of the parishes of Bardsley and Waterloo the district is difficult of access, the roads being practically old cart roads, narrow and in an indifferent state of repair. The district lies upon the grit and coal formation, interspersed with clay, moss overlying certain portions of the Parish of Littlemoss.

Industries.—The principal industry of the district is that of Cotton Spinning, but Coal Mining (to a slight degree) and Iron Roller Work are existent.

B.—Sanitary Circumstances of the District.

Water Supply.—The large portion of the district is supplied from the Reservoirs of the Ashton-under-Lyne, Stalybridge and Dukinfield Joint Water Board, and part of the

Parish of Alt from the Oldham Corporation Reservoirs, the quality of the water in both cases being excellent. No cases of lead poisoning have occurred. The higher or upland portion of the parishes of Alt and Hartshead being dependent upon springs and wells the contamination is very remote. Analysis taken in one instance.

Rivers and Streams.—The river Medlock and the Brook-courses in the district, being under the supervision of the Mersey and Irwell Joint Committee, your Council having three sewage schemes in operation in the district, the pollution of such river and streams is very slight. This slight pollution occurs in the upper and lower reaches of the river, but as the Springhead Urban District Council have completed Sewage Works in one portion of your council's district, viz: in the parish of Alt, and such works can be available for dealing with the greater portion of the sewage from this parish, an endeavour to arrange with the Springhead Urban District Council for terms to treat sewage from this portion of your district should be made, and I would further suggest that early means be taken to deal with the sewage of this portion of your district, and schemes for the drainage of Littlemoss and Woodhouses should also receive your consideration.

Closet Accommodation.—In the district there are 162 middens with 269 closets attached thereto; 446 pail closets; 394 dry ashpits; 131 fresh W.C's, and 577 waste water closets.

During the year 7 privy closets have been converted to waste W.C's, and 12 to pail closets.

I strongly recommend the Council to insist upon water closet conversions in the parishes of Bardsley and Waterloo even if it compels contribution thereto. The stoppages in waste water closets re-occurring about every three months in some properties.

SCAVENGING.

Since April, 1913, your Council have undertaken the work of the removal of House Refuse in the Parishes of Bardsley, Littlemoss, Waterloo and Woodhouses, and I have little to complain of as to the manner in which the work is done in these parishes. There is, however, a portion of your district from which many complaints have been received, that is, the Hamlet of Pitses in the Parish of Alt. Pits were constructed there for the reception of the contents of pail closets, but the inhabitants do not avail themselves of the use thereof; a tip for house refuse was also arranged for but the tenants do not use it. The Parish of Alt being an extended one, I must acknowledge that it is difficult to deal with this matter, especially so far as parts are concerned, but as stated before, by connection with the Springhead Sewage Works, this difficulty could be obviated in a short time.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

I append the Report of the Sanitary Inspector of his work under this heading during the past year :—

Number of	Nuisances reported	158
Do.	Notices served (Statutory)	83
Do.	Nuisances remedied without Notices, (Informal)	60
Do.	Defective Houses	29
Do.	Dilapidated Ashpits	4
Do.	House Drains opened	29
Do.	Blocked Ditches	2
Do.	Water Supply analysed	2
Do.	Pails supplied to order	6
Do.	Dangerous Buildings	1
Do.	Houses disinfected	19
	1 prosecution for visiting picture show	1
Do.	Bedding destroyed	1
Do.	Carcases destroyed	1

Plans approved for the following—one house (not built); one bungalow (not built); sheds, 3; garages, 4; stables, wood 1; bath and lavatory, 1; school institute, 1; brick works, 1; pigsty, 1.

Slaughter-houses, six in number, are regularly inspected and are registered. At one water has to be carried.

In 1914.....6. In 1920.....6.

Dairies and Cowsheds, 90. With few exceptions, are in fair and good condition.

Bakehouses. None except confectionery.

Offensive Trades. None.

Lodging-houses. None.

Out Workers. None.

SCHOOLS.

The Elementary and Council Schools, eight in number, are clean, satisfactory and well supplied with water. Only three are connected to sewers.

INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Administration of the Factory and Workshops Act, 1901, in connection with

Factories, Workshops, Laundries, Workplaces and Homework.

INSPECTION.

Including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises	Number of		
	Inspections	Written Notices	Prosecutions
Factories 4	72	0	0
Workshops.....16	156	1	0
Workplaces ..... (Other than Outworkers' premises included in part 3 of this report)	0	0	0
Total.....	228	1	0

REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on the Register (s. 131) at the end of the year.

	Number
Medlock Vale Print Works	1
Thornlea Brook Bleach and Dye Works	1
Park Bridge Iron Works	1
A Lees & Sons, Roller Works	1
A. L. Dobb & Sons ,,	1
Kerfoot & Co., Sweets Works	1
J. W. Holland, Wheelwright's Shop	1
J. Taylor, Rope Walk	1
C. Barlow, Tailor	1
Chamber Colliery, Bardsley Pit	1
Breweries	1
Bardsley Wadding Works	1
J. Fletcher, Machine Shop	1
Stuart Bros. Ltd., Cloth Cleaning Works	1
— Cottrell, Quarry	1
— Kenworthy ,,	1
Total Number of Workshops on Register	16

OTHER MATTERS.

Class.	Number
Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories :—	
Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Act (s. 5.)	0
Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspector as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory and Workshop Act (s. 5) :—	
Notified by H.M. Inspector	1
Reports sent to H.M. Inspector	0
Other Complaints remedied	3
Underground Bakehouses (s. 101) :—	
Certificates granted during the year	0
In use at the end of the year	0

Hospital.—The only hospital in the district is the Hartshead Hospital, under the Joint Authority, for the treatment of Smallpox patients. No cases from this District admitted during 1920.

There is no provision for treating other acute infectious diseases or tuberculosis.

Arrangements have, however, been made with the Ashton-under-Lyne Corporation for the disinfection of "contacts" and clothing at their new disinfecting station.

Adopted Acts.—(1904) Power to join in the formation of a Joint Smallpox Hospital.

(1907) Powers of Section 45 Public Health Acts, 1875, for the provision of tips.

(1909) Powers of Section 49 of the Public Health Acts (Amendment Act) 1890, as far as regards special expenses.

(1911) Powers under the Public Health Acts (Amendment Act) 1907, except parts 7, 8 and 9.

Powers under part 3 of the Public Health Acts (Amendment Act) 1890, as far as it applies to Rural Districts in operation from June 1st, 1911.

Powers under Section 154 of the Public Health Acts, 1875.

Confirmation of powers under Section 155, 127 and 160 of the Act of 1875.

Powers under Section 3 of the Public Health (Building in Streets) Act, 1888.

In the year 1900 the Council adopted the Model Regulations under the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Order of 1885.

FOOD.

No special local arrangements in force for the inspection of the above, samples being taken by the Inspectors of the Lancashire County Council. One cow, however, was killed on

the 29th December last and, after being examined, was condemned and destroyed.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

During the year 70 cases of Infectious Diseases were notified.

The following table shows the different diseases notified :

Smallpox	0
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup	5
Erysipelas	3
Scarlet Fever	11
Enteric Fever	1
Puerperal Fever	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	21
Other forms of ,,	10
Dysentery	1
Pneumonia	17
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0
	70

Of these four were military cases, two of them being removed to Oldham and Hyde Hospitals respectively. One case of Diptheria was taken to Monsall Hospital.

The case of Dysentry was, upon Bacteriological examination, found not to be so.

Premises are visited upon receipt of notification of the existence of disease and complete isolation insisted upon. When the patients are sufficiently recovered the houses and bedding, &c., are disinfected by Sulphur or Spray.

Disinfectants in liquid and powder forms are supplied free, and any inhabitant of the district may at any time receive free supplies, after giving a satisfactory reason.

Number of houses disinfected 19.

Antitoxin supplied free in all diphtheria cases.

Bacteriological examination of Swabs are made by arrangement with the Manchester Public Health Laboratory.

No return cases of Scarlet Fever and no cases of Encephalitis Lethargica reported.

The Lancashire County Council has a Tuberculosis Dispensary in the Borough of Ashton-under-Lyne, and cases from your district receive attention there.

The only Hospital in the district is the Ashton-under-Lyne and District Joint Smallpox Hospital at Hartshead, where patients from other districts were treated during the year. A suspected case of Smallpox was subsequently diagnosed as Chickenpox.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

Staff employed :

Surveyor and Inspector of Nuisances (joint appointment) and myself.

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS.

	Male	Female	Sex Unstated	Totals	Rate per 1000
March Quarter	29	24	0	53	22·13
June do.	32	27	4	63	26·28
Sept. do.	24	10	3	37	15·44
Dec. do.	27	28	2	57	23 80
	112	89	9	210	21·92

Legitimate ..... 107 Males
Do. ..... 93 Females
Illegitimate ..... 5 Males
Do. ..... 5 Females

DEATHS.

	Male	Female	Total	Rate per 1000
March Quarter	10	14	24	10·32
June do.	8	9	17	7·32
Sept. do.	12	13	25	10·75
Decr. do.	6	18	24	10·32
	36	54	90	9·71

TRANSFERABLE DEATHS.

INWARD.	Male	Female	Total
March Quarter	1	2	3
June do.	3	1	4
Sept. do.	1	1	2
Dec. do.	5	2	7
	40	60	106

OUTWARD.	Male	Female	Total	Rate per 1000
March Quarter	1	0	1	
June do.	1	1	2	
December do.	1	0	1	
			4	
Nett Deaths			102	11·00
The Registrar General gives			107	11·54

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

	Male	Female
March Quarter	1	2
June do.	1	3
September do.	5	0
December do.	1	4
Inward	1	

Total 18 Deaths. Rate per 1000 Births registered 85·71.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

	Males	Females	
Influenza	1	2	3
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	4	2	6
Meningitis do	2	0	2
Cancer	2	4	6
Rheumatic Fever	0	1	1
Heart Disease	5	10	15
Bronchitis	2	8	10
Pneumonia	6	6	12
Other respiratory diseases	0	1	1
Diarrhœa	1	0	1
Appendicitis	1	0	1
Cirrhosis of the Liver	1	0	1
Bright's Disease	1	1	2
Congenital Debility	3	4	7
Violence	2	3	5
Suicide	0	1	1
Other defined diseases	15	17	32
Total	46	60	106

Outward.	Males	Females
Suicide	1	0
Heart Disease	1	0
Violence	1	0
Other Diseases	0	1

Total..... 102 Deaths.

ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

Diarrhœa...	1 male.	Rate per 1,000...	0·10
Influenza...	3 deaths.	do. ...	0·32
Pulmonary Tuberculosis...	6 deaths	do. ...	0·64

RESPIRATORY DISEASES.

Bronchitis.....	10 deaths		
Pneumonia ...	12 deaths		
Other.....	1 death		
	23	Rate per 1,000...	2 47

HOUSING.

The total number of houses in the district is 2,210, mainly of the cottage or four-room type.

The population being 9,576, the average number of occupants is 4·3.

There are only seven back to back houses in the district.

It was estimated that there were required in the parishes of Bardsley and Waterloo 60 houses to relieve the over-crowding caused by the shortage of houses. This number was afterwards increased to 100, but with the exception of the selection of a suitable site in each parish no further action was taken.

The general standard of the existing is good, but repairs and alterations of the sanitary arrangements are shirked by owners owing to the expensive cost of the same, and internal decorations by owners is a thing of the past.

No action was taken under the Housing Town Planning Acts of 1909-1919.

Should any houses be erected in the district I would recommend that at least 89 houses at present inhabited should be extensively altered and repaired, and that at least 12 should be condemned as unfit for habitation.

The alterations in the sanitary accommodation is given in the Surveyor's Report of work done.

The Bye-laws are practically obsolete, dating just after the P.H.A., 1875, was passed.

There are no public lodging houses in the district, and little difficulty has been experienced in dealing with van dwellers.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

G. F. BOWMAN,

M.O.H.

STATISTICS.

Year ended 31st December, 1920.

Estimated Population	Births 9576; Deaths 9264
General Death Rate	11·0
Death Rate from Tuberculosis	0·64
Infantile Mortality	85·71
Number of Dwelling-houses	2210
Number of Working Class Houses	1500
New Houses erected	None

1.—Inspection. Unfit Dwelling-houses.

Number inspected	200
Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Inspection of District Regulation, 1900	89
Number of houses found unfit for human habitation	6
Number of houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	83

2.—Remedy of Defects without formal notice.

Number of houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	2

3.—Action under Statutory Powers.

(*a*)—*Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing Town Planning Act.*

Number of houses in respect of which notices were served to repair ..... Nil.

Number of houses rendered fit :

(*a*) By Owners..... Nil.

(*b*) By the Local Authority in default of Owners ..... Nil.

Number of houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declaration by Owners of intention to close... Nil.

(*b*) *Proceedings under the Public Health Acts* :—

Number of houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 158

Number of houses in which defects were remedied :—

By Owners 143

By the Local Authority in default of owners Nil.

(*c*)—*Proceedings under Sections 17 and 18 of the Housing Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909* :—

1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 ..... Nil.

Unhealthy Areas. Nil.

Staff. None specially appointed.